



Questions and Answers

The Importation of Hunter-Harvested Wild Ruminant Meat

August 11, 2003

The following Questions and Answers describe the specific conditions that are required for the importation of Hunter-Harvested Wild Ruminant Meat:

Q. Is hunter-harvested wild ruminant meat intended for personal use allowed entry in the U.S.?

A. Yes.

Q. Is hunter-harvested wild ruminant meat intended for commercial use allowed entry in the U.S.?

A. No.

Q. What is the definition of “commercial use”?

A. Commercial use refers to the importation of products that will be sold and/or further distributed.

Q. What is the definition of an importation that is for “personal use”?

A. Personal use refers to importations that are for personal consumption or display and will not be sold or further distributed. These importations usually refer to meat and trophies from legally hunted wild ruminants that are imported strictly for the use of the hunter.

Q. How can a hunter import hunter-harvested wild ruminant meat?

A. In order to import hunter-harvested wild ruminant meat, the importer in the United States must obtain a “Veterinary Services Special Permit for the Importation of Hunter-Harvested Wild Ruminant Meat.” Importers in the United States can download and print this document directly from APHIS’ homepage at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/bse/bse.html>. Importers can also contact APHIS’ National Center for Import and Export by telephone at (301)734-3277 to obtain the Special Permit or to ask questions.

Q. What is the User Fee cost associated with the “Veterinary Services Special Permit”?

A. There is no cost.

Q. What documentation must the hunter present to officials at the port of entry upon their return to the United States from their hunting expedition in Canada?

A. The hunter must have a “Veterinary Services Special Permit for the Importation of Hunter-Harvested Wild Ruminant Meat”. The hunter must also have a current Canadian hunting license (a photocopy is acceptable).

These documents must be presented at the U.S. port of entry and will be reviewed and approved by an inspector with the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection.

Q. How long does it take to obtain a Veterinary Services Special Permit?

A. The Veterinary Services Special Permit may be obtained and used immediately. Importers in the United States can download and print this document directly from APHIS’ homepage at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/bse/bse.html>. Importers can also contact APHIS’ National Center for Import and Export by telephone at (301)734-3277 to obtain the Special Permit or to ask questions.

Q. If I return to the U.S. by air or if I ship my hunter-harvested wild ruminant meat by air, can I utilize any International Airport.

A. Yes.

Q. Is a Veterinary Services Import Permit also required for the import of hunter-harvested wild ruminant meat?

A. No.

Q. What is the difference between a Veterinary Services Special Permit and a Veterinary Services Import Permit?

A. A Veterinary Services Special Permit is the permit issued specifically for the importation of hunter

harvested wild ruminant meat obtained during hunting expeditions.

A Veterinary Services Import Permit, "United States Veterinary Permit for Importation and Transportation of Controlled Materials and Organisms and Vectors," is issued for all other products that require an import permit.

Q. Is Alaskan origin hunter-harvested wild ruminant meat, meat carcasses, and game trophies that transit Canada allowed entry into the U.S.?

A. Yes.

Q. How can Alaskan origin hunter-harvested wild ruminant meat, meat carcasses, and game trophies that transit Canada enter the U.S.?

A. In order to import Alaskan origin hunter-harvested wild ruminant meat, meat carcasses, and game trophies that transit Canada, a current Alaskan hunting license (photocopy is acceptable) is required. The Alaskan hunting license must be presented to the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection Officer at the U.S. port of entry.

Q. What will happen if an importer does not have the required documentation?

A. The product will be refused entry into the United States.

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